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REFERENCE:



ATTACHMENT TO M-6886  
16 JUNE 1969  
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POL PIPELINE  
NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OPERATIONAL PETROLEUM PIPELINE IN NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS.

2. LOCATION:

PANHANDLE AREA OF NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS.

3. BACKGROUND:

APPROXIMATELY 161 NM OF 4 INCH (10 CM.) PETROLEUM PIPELINE IS NOW IN USE IN THE PANHANDLE AREA OF NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS. INTERMITTENT SECTIONS OF THIS PIPELINE HAS BEEN OBSERVED UNDER CONSTRUCTION SINCE JULY 1968. THE MEASURED DISTANCE INCLUDES PHOTO CONFIRMED MAINLINE AND SERVICE LINES AND APPROXIMATELY 17 NM OF NON-PHOTO CONFIRMED BUT NECESSARY OPERATIONAL GAPS (MEASURED IN STRAIGHT LINE DISTANCES). EIGHT MAJOR OPERATIONAL STORAGE AREAS SERVED BY THE PIPELINE HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED. THESE HAVE A TOTAL ESTIMATED CAPACITY OF 10,000 MT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONLY THAT PORTION OF THE SYSTEM BETWEEN THE WATER AND RAIL INPUT POINTS AT VINH AND THE PRESENT TERMINUS IN LAOS IS NOW IN USE.

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GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM  
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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4. MISSION READOUT:

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PIPE SYSTEM INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED PRESSURE PUMPS AND INTERDICTIONS IN THE LAOTIAN PORTION OF THE LINE.

THE SECOND EAST-WEST PIPELINE WAS OBSERVED, FOR THE FIRST TIME ON PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED] RUNNING WEST FROM THE VINH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS STORAGE FACILITY TO A POINT WHERE IT JOINS THE NORTH-SOUTH LINE TWO NM NORTH OF

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THE SONG CA RIVER CROSSING. THIS LINE HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED [REDACTED] AND GENERALLY PARALLELS THE FIRST EAST-WEST LINE. A NEW UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE AREA IS ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW LINE IN THE VINH AREA. THE STORAGE AREA WILL BE SERVED BY THE PIPELINE. THE AREA IS ALSO SERVED BY A RAIL SPUR OFF THE MAIN RAILLINE NEAR THE VINH RAILYARD. RAIL TANK CARS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ON THIS SPUR FROM WHICH DIRECT POL TRANSFER INTO THE PIPELINE AND INTO THE STORAGE AREA CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

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SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY 1969 A SERIES OF PUMPING STATIONS HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN THE OPEN LEVEL AREAS NORTH OF BAI DUC THON AND HARDER TO IDENTIFY IN THE HEAVILY VEGETATED AND UNEVEN TERRAIN TO THE SOUTH. FOURTEEN STATIONS AND FIVE PROBABLE STATIONS ARE PRESENTLY CONFIRMED BY NPIC. A TOTAL OF THIRTY-TWO STATIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. TYPICALLY, THESE PUMPING STATIONS CONSIST OF ONE PUMP SITUATED IN A SMALL REVETTED HUT ADJACENT TO THE PIPELINE. THE PUMPS ARE CONNECTED TO THE MAINLINE BY DUAL (EFFLUENT AND AFFLUENT) LINES. IN ADDITION

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TO PRESSURE PUMPS SEVERAL TRANSFER PUMP STATIONS HAVE BEEN LOCATED. THESE ARE USED TO FILL POL TANK TRUCKS, OTHER VEHICLE TANKS, OR POL DRUMS.

SEVERAL INTERDICTIONS IN THE LAOTIAN PORTION OF THE LINE HAVE BEEN OBSERVED. THE NATURE OF THE LINE PROBABLY FACILITATES EASY REPAIR OF LINE DISRUPTIONS. PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED] REVEALS TWO INTERDICTIONS WITH BURNING PETROLEUM AT THE POINTS OF BREAK. THIS AREA IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 2 NM SOUTH OF THE NORTH VIETNAM-LAOS BORDER.

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